



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **“Lockett Ranches; A Firewise Community”**

Lockett Ranches has recently gained national recognition as a Firewise Community. This honor is bestowed on communities which have recognized their risk of wildfire and are taking steps to reduce the risk to their homes and property. Working in conjunction with the Flagstaff Fire Department, Lockett Ranches has become the 21<sup>st</sup> community in Arizona to be awarded this national recognition and the third within the Flagstaff area. Nationwide just over, 200 communities are recognized in 33 states.

The goal of Firewise is to provide people living near forested areas with the knowledge and techniques to identify hazards and maintain acceptable levels of readiness around their homes to decrease the risk of wildfire. According to Mark Brehl, Community Firewise Coordinator for the Flagstaff Fire Department, “Lockett Ranches is taking the necessary steps to protect their community from wildfire while helping promote a healthy ecosystem. It’s great to see such a community act proactively to reduce their risk and become Firewise. We hope to have many more neighborhoods take such initiative.”



Flagstaff Fire Department's Firewise Coordinator, Mark Brehl, presents Kevin Conto and Heidi Wayment of Lockett Ranches with the Firewise Communities Award.

The Firewise program fosters a strong sense of community among participants while educating homeowners about what they can do to protect themselves, their families and their communities from wildfire. There is never a 100% guarantee of protection against wildfire damage, but if suggested actions are implemented, there is a higher probability that people's homes and communities will survive, or even avoid, the potential devastation of a wildfire.

For more information on how your neighborhood can become a Firewise Community or what you can do to protect your property, contact the Fire Department at 556-1207. For more information visit: [www.flagstaff.az.gov/fuelmanagement](http://www.flagstaff.az.gov/fuelmanagement).